



JANUARY 2009

Volume 5, Issue 1

Copyright RCT

From The Editor...

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Holy Snowstorm, Batman! Did we get pounded or what? Anywhere from ankle to knee deep white stuff fell on the Puget Sound in December, making for a white Christmas for all of us.

Speaking just for myself, I could do with a little less of the white stuff... At least we are not as bad off as folks in Spokane. This mornings paper (01/04/09) is reporting over sixty-six inches(!) in Spokane, with more expected. Pictured here is what happened to Bob K7MXE's antennas in the latest storms!

On the left is an aerial view, taken from a friend of Bob's airplane! On the right, we can see the damage up close and personal. I hope that Bob will be back on the air when ever this stuff melts!



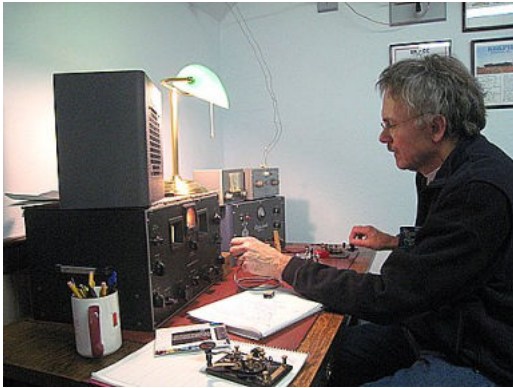
This is a big issue, and there are some new additions.

We will be having a great new year, and I am looking forward to much companionship and camaraderie in the new year. Plus, maybe a bit of DX would be nice too...

In an unusual step, the Editor's page will be continued on the next page... With the first annual **BARKIE AWARDS!!!**

(Don't you hate it when we do that?)

This is a big issue, and there are some new additions. Let me start by thanking our regular contributors, especially Rich Patrick KR7W. Rich contributes many interesting articles to the LOGGERS BARK and in fact is the major reason why this publication looks like it does today. Thanks to Rich for mentoring this editor, and quite a few others in the last year and in years past.



Next on the parade would have to be Rick, KE7EMW. Rick acts in many capacities in the club, but for me personally, he is the "Editor's Editor" Every month, Rick goes over not only my trashy writings but he also edits just about everything that goes into the Loggers Bark in one way or another.

Thanks Rick!



Oh, Crud... He's doing it again!

Continued on the next page!

Next on this list of possibly annual "Barkie Awards" should be our own club secretary, Larry Watson KD4VOM. Larry contributes all the club meeting minutes, which is a thankless job, and one that is dictated by the clubs rules. Also, in case nobody has figured it out yet, Larry also is a regular contributor , writing as "Sparky". Without his contributions, the "Barkie" would be a dismal rag suitable only for lining birdcages...

Thanks Larry!



The last thanks has to go out to you, the membership of the Radio Club of Tacoma. Those of you who read the "Bark" and who come to the meetings, participate in the functions and who show up at the clubhouse on Saturday momings are part and parcel as to why we keep doing this!

So... Keep up the good work!

73 All From Gary WG7X



A Jot from Jill.....



Happy New Year to each and every one of you. I hope you were able to enjoy a safe and restful holiday as much as we did. I'd have to say it was great to not go anywhere and just watch the weather mostly from the window.

I have titled my article appropriately because I don't plan to bore you with too much. Just a jot or two will do after this. I appreciate the other great

articles that you all submit and hope that more members feel free to write in and share your great ideas and Ham Radio experiences.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support and belief in me enough to vote me in as your president. As we all know, it is impossible to please everyone, but I will try to be fair and listen to what each of you have to say.

We can look back at the past year with a lot of pride knowing that our club has accomplished so much. We have increased our membership to more than 300 members. There have been numerous fun activities that members have worked hard on to make successful. I'm really proud to represent such a great club and hope that we all want to go out and tell others about it. If you were unable to make it to the Christmas party and Awards banquet, we had some awesome food, lots of green bean casseroles and some wonderful awards and certificates to show our appreciation to those who have done so much this past year.

As I mentioned in my article when I was running for office, I hope to get more members to the meetings. If you would like to make it to a meeting and are unable to drive for any reason, please let me know so I can start making a list. No one will know if you don't say anything so please don't be bashful and send me or someone else an email. You can phone me as well at 253-539-7772.

We have a board meeting on January 7th at the clubhouse at 7:30 and then our general membership meeting on the 14th. I am planning to involve the membership at that meeting and give you an opportunity to talk about how you got your start in Ham Radio, who has influenced you and give you a chance to tell us about your station and antennas. It should be interesting to hear from all of you. Until then, this is your president wishing you the very best.

Jill, K7Jil



Radio Club of Tacoma

RCT Board Meeting 3 December 2008

The 3 December 2008 RCT Board meeting was held at the Radio Club of Tacoma club house. President Jill Palmer K7JIL called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm

Officers and board members present:

President: Jill Palmer – K7JIL

Vice President: Rick Rose KE7EMW

Secretary: Larry Watson -- KD4VOM

Treasurer: Gary McFadden – K7UPG

Board Member: Al Burleson -- K7HW

Board Member: Bob Purdom – AD7LJ

Board Member: Frank Palmer – AC7JY

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached. There were 12 names on the attendance roster.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

The minutes of the previous Board meeting were approved as coordinated/corrected by e-mail.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Larry Watson – KD4VOM

Correspondence: In addition to the routine utility bills and bank statements we have several communications from the Department of Natural resources relative to our insurance coverage. We had a couple of QSL cards as well

A copy of the correspondence log is attached to the original copy of the minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Gary McFadden – K7UPG

There was no financial report, but the financial data was available.

ILLNESS AND SILENT KEY: It was reported that Bob K7MXE is expecting surgery soon.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Rick KE7EMW reports the current membership count is 308

VE Testing: No Report

Awards and Christmas Banquet: Rick KE7EMW reports all is ready for this year's annual Christmas Potluck and Awards Banquet. Setup begins around 5:30 and serving should begin around 6:30. It's Saturday, December 13th at the TACID building at 19th Street and Mildred.

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Hamfest: Rick KE7EMW on behalf of the Planning Team tabled a proposal that the Planning Team would do the 2009 Hamfest. Time is running out. This year's Hamfest would be managed by the "Planning Team" in order to fully document the procedure and build an operating handbook/procedure to ease the way for future Hamfest Managers.

The Planning Team solicited and received Board Approval to manage the RCT 2009 Hamfest.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Property Management/Speaker: Larry KD4VOM reports progress is being made on the SOP, but its not quite ready yet for Board review. There was a discussion about property management, prompted in part by an input from Bob Heselberg K7MXE who recommends we enhance the last Saturday Club mini Swapmeet by offering something from the club's equipment coffers. The Board generally considered the idea worth a try and in keeping with past Club practices. Bob Purdom AD7LJ offered to take on the project, which will take some lead time to insure that club members are aware of the activity and have an opportunity to participate. The idea is to develop and implement a silent auction process.

Lawn Maintenance: This item is a hold over from last month and tonight's discussion also included another input from Bob K7MXE who suggests that it is time for another clubhouse property cleanup. The Board agreed and we are now looking for someone to head up the project, Bob K7MXE perhaps??? We know if we set a date and let folks know they will show up with the time and tools to clean up the place.

Outgoing President's Gavel: Rick KE7EMW has responded to last month's Board decision to recognize outgoing Club Presidents with a ceremonial gavel by bringing the gavel that will be presented at this year's Awards Banquet.

Salmon Run: Rick KE7EMW reported that the Salmon Run raised over \$ 4,000 thus far and only a couple of pledges remain outstanding. Al Ferguson, N7OMS is planning a action soon with the team tasked to recommend projects to fund using the Salmon Run proceeds.

NEW BUSINESS:

Standing Rules Validation: Larry KD4VOM tabled an action to validate the recent standing rules changes approved by the e-mail coordination and voting process.

The following Standing Rules Changes were reviewed.

1. (Revised) EDUCATION COORDINATOR:

The duties of the Education Coordinator shall be to solicit qualified instructors and to recommend methods of publicizing and making available educational programs to the public. The Coordinator will keep the Board apprised of progress and activities monthly. RCT sponsorship of Educational programs (including Amateur Radio Technician, General and Extra Class) requires advance notification of, and approval by the Board of Directors of the Radio Club of Tacoma. A committee may be appointed to assist the Coordinator.

10. (Revised) MEMBERSHIP PRO-RATA DUES

For the purpose of setting the dues payable by new members who join at any other time than the first half of the year (Defined as January 01 to June 30.) A new member joining the club in the second half of the year (defined as July 1st to October 31st) will be responsible for payment of ½ the annual dues.

New members joining from November 1st to December 31st will pay full dues which will provide them with a membership through December 31st of the following year.

Members making application for renewal and reinstatement shall pay the full annual dues for that year (defined as January 1st through December 31st) regardless of the date of application.

11. (Revised) NEW MEMBER PROMOTIONAL MEMBERSHIP:

The Radio Club of Tacoma will offer a free Promotional Membership in the club for the remainder of the calendar year to anyone who attends the Radio Club of Tacoma sponsored and conducted Technician Class, tests, and

passes their FCC Technician exam elements with the RCT. The Promotional membership does not include voting privileges and ends at the end of the calendar year in which granted

16. (Added) DONATION POLICY:

Donations of funds, property, and equipment are welcomed by the Radio Club of Tacoma. In accepting a donation, the Club (unless otherwise stated in a special project solicitation) does not make any commitments as to the future use of said donation.

Donors should understand that donated equipment may be (at the discretion of the RCT Board of Directors) used for any of the charitable, educational, and operational needs of the club; assigned to the club Historical Radio Museum; traded; or sold – based on the nature, age, condition and utility of the equipment.

While this policy relieves the club from any implied responsibility to use any donation in a manner not sanctioned/established by the RCT Board of Directors, it does not preclude Club-initiated/sponsored fundraising or equipment/material solicitations for stated purposes or activities.

The Club maintains judicious procedures to acknowledge, inventory, value and account for club property and comply with Federal, State and Local regulations as well as good business practices.

Motion: It was Moved, Seconded and Passed to validate these listed changes to the Club Standing Rules.

RCT Facebook Proposal: Linda Adams KE7FKX tabled a proposal to use a Facebook Group website as a vehicle for promoting the club. The intent is to establish a web presence where the younger generation is likely to find it, and refer them to our main website for current information and activities. There was considerable discussion on the utility of such a proposal. Some worried that it would be difficult to maintain and might even become an issue if others wanted to use other web or social networking sites for similar activities, thus creating complications. Most, however, thought we needed to explore it as another method of pro-

moting amateur radio and the club to a younger audience. Linda would have full control over the site, including monitoring for unwanted posts/members, and the ability to shut the site down if it proves a problem.

Motion: It was Moved, Seconded and Approved to permit Linda to run the site for a six month period to determine its value and usefulness.

Antenna Launcher Offer: Rick KE7EMW reported being contacted by Bill AD7QI who offered to build and donate to the RCT a Golf Ball Launcher like the one he previously designed and built for Steve Blacksten AD7VL. Bill would require a safety sign on the launcher restricting its use to RCT Members who have been trained on its "Proper use and Safety". During the discussion, issues of safety and liability were addressed, and in the end, with caveats that Bill should agree to manage and control the training and certification of members authorized to use the system, the Board agreed to accept Bills offer.

Motion: It was moved, seconded and passed to accept, with our thanks, Bill AD7QI's offer to construct and donate to the Club a Golf Ball Antenna Launcher, and to train and qualify Club Members in its safe and proper use.

Tuesday Evening Net Control: Rick KE7EMW announced that Gary McAdams WG7X, and Bud Mitze K7BUD's work schedules have forced them to be relieved from regular duties on the 2 Meter Net Control Team.

Bud would like to remain the Two Meter Net Coordinator, and both have agreed to act as alternates when needed.

Bud has submitted two additions for approval to be Two Meter Net Controllers

Bob Purdom AD7LJ (3rd Tuesday)

Robert Patrick W7EXC (4th Tuesday)

Motion: It was moved, seconded and approved to relieve Gary WG7X and Bud K7BUD from the regular two meter net roster, and add Bob Purdom AD7LJ and Robert W7EXC to the regular roster, while retaining Bud K7BUD as the Two Meter Net Coordinator.

RCT ELMER Board: Rick – KE7EMW presented the names of two members who have volunteered for the RCT Elmer Board. Jill – K7Jil approved and agreed to appoint Bill Wright – AD7QI and Al Churchill – AC7BU as presented. Rick – KE7EMW will follow up with them to record their preferred topics for assistance and to inform the Elmer Board Coordinator, Alan Hughes – KB7SVU.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Non Member Policy: Additional discussion took place regarding non-member access to club facilities without supervision.

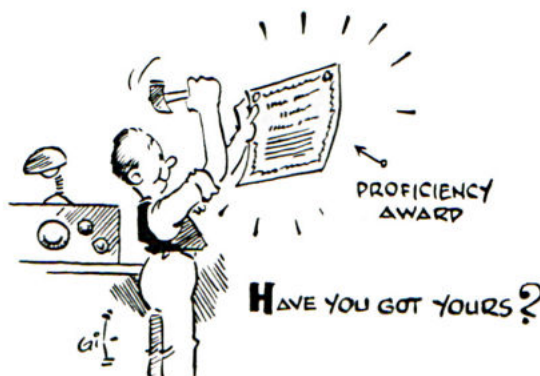
Motion: It was moved, seconded and passed to implement a policy that access to the upstairs area (Library, Museum, and HF Room) be restricted to current, paid-up members in good standing. Non-members must be escorted by a current, paid-up member who remains in their company at all times while in the restricted areas.

Rick – KE7EMW was instructed by the board to create two permanent signs that will be posted on either side of the stairway door regarding this new policy.

RCT Club Jacket: Rick KE7EMW reports raffle ticket sales thus far at \$ 35.00

Network Installation: Larry KD4VOM announced that the Club's wired network is essentially installed and operational. A special thanks to Rich – KR7W, Al – N7OMS and Nick – K7MO.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm



Radio Club of Tacoma

GENERAL MEETING 10 December 2008 Minutes

The 10 December 2008 Monthly Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. . President Jill Palmer K7JIL called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Officers and board members present:

President: Jill Palmer – K7JIL
Vice President: Rick Rose – KE7EMW
Secretary: Larry Watson -- KD4VOM
Treasurer: Gary McFadden – K7UPG
Board Member: Frank Palmer – AC7JY
Board Member: Al Lentz – W7AML
Board Member: Bob Purdom – AD7LJ

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached. There were 41 names on the attendance roster

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Was led by Jill Palmer K7JIL

INTRODUCTIONS:

Self introductions were completed and guests welcomed.

ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY:

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Larry Watson – KD4VOM

Correspondence & Calendar: Larry reports the usual utility bills and bank account statements, along with the renewal tabs for one of our generator trailer, and several letters relative to renewing our insurance coverage and the liability coverage certificate required for the Crawford Mountain repeater site.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Gary McFadden – K7UPG,

Financial information was available.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Rick Rose -- KE7EMW Rick reports the current membership count stands at 308.

Salmon Run: Rick KE7EMW also reported on the Salmon Run fund raiser results. We've received 101 of the 102 pledges and our efforts have raised over \$ 4000 for needed projects. Al Ferguson – N7OMS and his team are in the process of sorting through the various possible projects to select those recommended to

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the Board for authorization.

Awards Banquet: Rich N7ANF made the usual pitch for this year's annual Awards Banquet and Christmas Potluck. Its at the TACID facility again on Saturday, 13 December setting up around 5:30, dinner at 6:30 and then the recognition program including announcement of this years Doc Spike Inspirational Award, this year in the capable hands of Al Lentz – W7AML.

VE Report: John – AC7WW reports that on Tuesday evening at the regular monthly testing session, the number of Candidates equaled the VE's. Thirteen VE's served thirteen candidates. Twenty four elements were graded with twelve being passed. Eight new Technicians joined the Amateur Service, two candidates upgraded to General. Roger, WA7ANJ saw his granddaughter, Christina pass both the element two and three to become a General. Two candidates failed to achieve a license.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

PROGRAM: Home Brew Show and Tell: Ken N7ELF introduced tonight's Homebrew Show and Tell Program.

Bunny Hunting Gear: Rich Patrick – KR7W led off the session with a comprehensive display and explanation of the famous tape measure ARDF (Bunny Hunting) antenna and several attenuators used to reduce the signal strength into the HT for improved directional accuracy.

Homebrew Regenerative Receiver: Chuck -- AC7QN displayed a regenerative receiver built entirely from loose ends found in his shack/ bench...

Compressed Air Switching Relay: Bill -- AC7QI described the installation and use of a compressed air switching device used to switch between bands on Bill and Al's custom 20/160 antenna. without adding wire which would change the characteristics and performance of the antenna.

Homebrew Buddy pole: Ken – K7ELF displayed his homebrew buddy pole made from PVC pipe and extendable (tunable) antenna tips (look a lot like a traditional car antenna).

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Thanks and Welcome: Rick Rose -- KE7EMW made a point of thanking the outgoing Board Directors Bob Purdom AC7LJ, Al Lentz W7AML, and Treasurer Gary K7UPG for their contribution to the Board of Directors over the past two years.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Straight Key Night: Rich KR7W announced plans for this year's Straight Key night which is held annually on New Year's Eve, and for us an opportunity to celebrate the New Year with a little CW and Potluck at the Clubhouse. This year we'll get another chance to see Worth W7WG operate his vintage key as well as share the fun of our hobby with others. Rich says the group usually gathers around 4 – 4:30 and runs till folks run out of steam...

Facebook: Linda KE7FKX announced the Radio Club of Tacoma's experiment with the popular FACEBOOK social website. It's an attempt to reach a younger audience and provide a way for them to discover and participate in our great hobby. The Club is running a six month trial to determine the utility of the FACEBOOK experiment.

Digital Television Changeover: Larry reports the FCC's request to solicit Amateur Radio Licensee's support to help with the DTV broadcast television transition coming on 17 February. While there are reasonable arguments pro and con in the Amateur community as to the value and efficacy of our participation, we are reminded that we are licensed by the FCC as a "Service". The offer is there and there are ample promotional aids on the FCC DTV switch-over site for those interested. Bob Purdom AD7LJ advised the group that the State Emergency Operations folks recommend everyone acquire a Television Analog to Digital conversion box, especially if they are on a cable system which could go down during an emergency when the cable may not be operational. The A/D converter box would allow continued reception of digital transmission broadcast signals for emergency information dissemination.

HINTS AND KINKS: None

TUNING AND TRAFFIC:

The 10 Meter Net: Lynn Neece, K7OKS reminded us of the Sunday evening 10 meter net at 8 pm on 2837.5 MHz. He also asked for some-

one to host the net this coming Sunday as he will be unable. Harry W7HSA offered to do the honors.

10 Meter ARRL Contest: Larry KD4VOM reminded all of this weekend's ARRL 10 meter contest... This contest is a great opportunity for new hams to get on the 10 meter HF band and get involved. 10 meter antenna's can be easily built from simple wire.

DOOR PRIZE:

Tonight's Door Prize, an entertainment coupon handbook was won by Al AC7BU

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm

**WOULD YOU LOVE TO
COME TO A MEETING
SOME TIME, BUT YOU
DON'T FEEL COMFORT-
ABLE DRIVING AT
NIGHT? DO YOU NEED A
RIDE? PLEASE CONTACT
JILL PALMER SO SHE CAN
MAKE A LIST AND FIND
OUT IF SOMEONE THAT
LIVES NEAR YOU MIGHT BE
ABLE TO GIVE YOU A LIFT
TO A MEETING.**

253-539-7772
OR HAMTALKER2@MSN.COM

Jill, K7JIL

Dateline: January 2009

Sparky's "View from the Shack"

This and that around the club, and more...

Sparky's welcomes comments, ideas and letters to "The RCT View", but reserves the right to procrastinate, and generally ignore social engineering or cranky inputs. Editorial philosophy — While there occasionally may be reason and rhyme as we go along, the goal is to ramble through the many and varied activities of the Club and its members as we take another trip around the sun.

We Recognize Our Own

- We Recognize Our Own...
- Straight Key Night...
- Attaboys

Every year the Radio Club of Tacoma takes time at the end of the year to celebrate the holiday season and equally important to recognize those who have contributed to the continuing success of our Club and great hobby. This year we again gathered at the TACID building at 19th and

Mildred as the snow began to fall. The early arrivals were busy by 5:30 setting up tables, hauling food and refreshments, laying out tablecloths, setting up chairs and all the other preparation detail to ready the hall for the members and their guests. As folks arrived the potluck table began to fill with an outstanding array of dishes, snacks, and sweets while the kitchen crew readied the ham, turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy. Over 50 folks came to share memories, enjoy the meal and help recognize those among us who have contributed so much over the past year to make the Radio Club of Tacoma what it is.

President Jill — K7JIL recognized the ladies contributions by announcing they had precedence in the dinner line. After all had had their fill, the business of the evening was conducted by Jill —

K7JIL thanked all who had contributed their time and skills to the Club over the past year. In particular, President Jill presented the "President's Award" to Bob Purdom AD7LJ for his untiring efforts; heading up this year's Field Day, Chairing the annual Hamfest; Managing the Valentine's Day potluck, and assisting in almost every part of the Club's activities and operations. President Jill also introduced a new and well deserved award; The Ambassador's award was presented to Worth Gurley W7WG. Sparky can't think of anyone who most epitomizes ambassadorship in amateur radio more than Worth, active in the Whisky Group, Program Presenter, CW coach and promoter, intrepid photographer and walking historian. Larry — KD4VOM thanked the folks who helped make the annual Kirkreit Picnic a success, especially XYL Janice.



Bob — AD7LJ recognized and thanked all those who worked so hard to make the Field Day and Hamfest successful.

Jill — K7JIL made a special point of thanking Rick Rose — KE7EMW, his family and Janice Watson for their hard work making this year's Awards Ceremony a reality. A special thanks was extended to Roger

— KE7EMV who has provided the coffee and cookies all year at our regular meetings, supplied the franks and chili for the recent sweepstakes event, and provided one of the turkeys for the Banquet. Ken — N7ELF who delivered an outstanding year of valuable and entertaining



meeting programs.

Jill — K7JIL turned the podium over to Al Lentz W7AML who chaired this year's Doc Spike award committee. Al thanked his team and explained the Doc Spike award criteria, then announced this year's winners; Rick Rose KE7EMW and Larry Watson KD4VOM. Both have spent many hours in support of the Club, Rick as Membership Chair and main database creator and maintainer, who keeps track of almost everything, as well as maintains and operates the Safety and Security tent at Field Day and Hamfest. He's been a key link in managing the administrative work underpinning the Salmon Run pledge drive, as well as a key player in the Club's Planning Team. Rick has



been a principal player in the Annual Awards Banquet for three years. Larry —KD4VOM, the Club Secretary works hard to keep the Club's administration functions running smoothly, has been active in getting the Club's property inventory up to date; He manages the Open House operations these days, and can be found at the Clubhouse almost every Saturday. Larry Chairs the Club's Planning Team which has been at the forefront of assisting the Club officers in planning for the future and documenting our operations. Larry also manages the annual Kirkreit picnic. Well done!

Another first occurred at this year's banquet. The usually serious Rich Patrick — KR7W took the stand to announce the first ever string bean and mushroom soup contest. There were several entries, and after careful



consideration and a detailed analysis of the rigid criteria, Rich awarded first prize to... This year's prize was a box of World Famous "DK Flakes" —chock full of nuts.

And as folks digested their meal and reflected on the awards, Larry —KD4VOM presented a RCT Year in Review video...

Straight Key Night...

Under the tutelage of Rich Patrick — KR7W has laid the plans for this year's Straight Key Night, which is held on New Year's Eve. We expect Worth —W7WG will once again bring his vintage telegrapher's key, and the loyal CW'ers and those who simply enjoy the camaraderie

and potlucks to gather around 4 pm and stay until the fun dwindles to a murmur.

Attaboys:

Sparky notes — Diane Sim — W7SIM, Leonard Burstiner — KA7NWF, and many others who jumped in early to set up the room, hustling tables, chairs and tablecloths like pros. Roger — KE7EMV brought along and setup the coffee and tea stand. The same crew hung in there at the end to help take down the tables and stack the chairs.

Once more Sparky wants to thank all those who keep the Clubhouse open on Saturdays... This important Club Tradition is possible only through the volunteer efforts by many to give up a Saturday now and then to make sure the doors are open, coffee on, and donuts available for members and their guests, as well as newcomers seeking help, information, or how to become a Ham... The list includes, but is not limited to: Al — K7HW; Al — N7OMS; Ken — N7ELF; Gary — K7EK; Alan — W7AML; Gary — WG7X; Steve — AD7AB; Frank — AC7JY; Jill — K7JIL; Rich — K7TW; Purdom, Bob — AD7LJ; Rick — KE7EMW; and Larry — KD4VOM

View from the Shack...

Sparky notes that January is a traditional time to reflect on the year gone by and to consider resolutions for the coming year.

It's a good time to think of how we want the Club to grow and what we want the Club do over the coming year; and ask ourselves what can I personally do to make that happen. Sparky would be pleased to see three major goals for the coming year:

1. Establish and get running a General Class License program, at least quarterly...
2. Establish a seminar program for Technicians and any of us who haven't gotten active to get the experience and help they need to really participate in the great amateur radio hobby.
3. Engage seriously in the community's emergency preparedness and disaster response effort. Get our own emergency act together, and form a team dedicated to improving our participation in amateur and community efforts to be ready for whatever comes.
4. How about you?

The Disclaimer...

These articles are intended to browse through recent activities and coming events of possible interest to the Radio Club of Tacoma members. It will of course by design and intent be informal and attempt to record some of the Club's activities that might otherwise go unnoticed.

Sparky

"Never test the depth of the water with both feet"



Dateline: January 2009

The Annual Radio Club of Tacoma Awards Banquet...

We are indebted to Ken N7ELF who has provided the photos from the 2008 Awards Banquet, just in time to make the January BARK

This Year's Awards Banquet had something for everybody...

As sunset arrived, the soft white stuff began to fall, not enough to discourage our crew, but enough to remind us of the Holiday Season. The early arrivals hauled in loads of food and goodies, then set up the room for a festive mood. We had a large crowd who braved the threat of snow and winter weather to share a meal and help recognize those who have given so much to the Club over the past year.



Our main host for the evening's festivities was our own Vice President, Rick Rose KE7EMW. Rick was the moving force behind all the arrangements and chief cook and bottle washer as well.

As the crowd grew and sampled the goodies laid out, it was a time to reflect on the year gone by and share memories with others who enjoy this great hobby.





President Jill K7JIL displays the Past President's Gavel



Al Lentz W7MAL models the Radio Club Jacket he won...



**Bob AD7LJ receives the new "President's Award"
And Jill draws a ticket for the Grand Prize**





VE REPORT John AC7WW

"We beat the snow!" Early Saturday December 13th nine VE's gathered at the LDS church near Key Center to administer amateur licensing tests to 21 candidates. Thirty-four elements were graded with eighteen being passed. Seventeen new Technicians joined the amateur ranks and one candidate upgraded to General. Three candidates failed to obtain a license.

Thanks to the following volunteer examiners for their time:

Harry, W7HSA
Rich, KK7VH
Bob, AD7LJ
Roddney, WV7O

Steve, AD7VL
Bud, KE7GB
Ed, KC7OKS
Roland, WQ7P



RCT 2008 VE team poses for the camera!

de W7OS
de W7OS
**MUSEUM
MUSINGS**
**News from the
Clifford J Doc Spike Museum**

Straight Key Night 2009 (UTC) was a big success in the Doc Spike Museum. Around the beginning of December... the Ad Hoc Museum committee, also known as the Doc Spike Little Achievers, led by Doc Spike Award winner, Alan "What's Up Doc" N7OMS, organized and inspired the committee members into a powerhouse workforce to remove the useless old benches and replace them with old timey Wainscoting and chair tailing on the SE wall as well as the entire south wall of the Museum. Many people commented that they liked the old-timey look. The goal was to make (at least part of) the room look like The Old Man's (son's) Shack.

We set up three Novice Class type stations... two of the stations took turns using the single Museum doublet antenna to be on the air. The Drake (not twins) Station consisted of a 2B receiver and a 2NT Novice transmitter (on loan from KR7W) connected to a home built link coupled antenna tuner. The second station used familiar Museum equipment: The Hammarlund HQ120 receiver and the WRL Globescout 65 transmitter. This combo fed into a Heathkit AC-1 antenna coupler. The AC-1 could tune the museum antenna to 80 meters, so this station was operating on 40M as well as 80M.

The third station consists of the Museum's Heathkit AT-1 (recently refurbished), a AR-3 and a Q multiplier (loaned by KR7W), . This station was not used for Straight Key Night because the receiver is not as good as the others. (Author's note: I had one of these receivers when I was a kid... and I don't see how I ever made any QSOs at all).

As you know... Straight Key Night is an amateur radio operating event where the ARRL encourages us to get out our keys and bugs and make CW contacts

like it was back in the old days of ham radio. It's great fun... but some hams kick it up a notch by getting out their old rigs that match the old keys and put them on the air. This year there were quite a few obvious sounding old rigs on the air. Chirpy, whoopee, and buzzer signals were heard occasionally on the air during this SKN.

Contacts were made by the usual participants and a couple of new hams. Don K7OG (formally AC7FA) and Matt KQ7W came and operated the Drake Station equipment for (I believe) the first time. Two brand new hams and club members came to view the CW operations in the Museum. The code and lingo was translated and they seemed quite interested. Our 9/10 Centurion, Worth W7WG, sat down at the key connected to the WRL Globescout transmitter and tapped out a very nice QSO with Doug AD7AV our club's librarian, at his home QTH. Both sides of this Morse Code QSO were quite enjoyable to listen to.

Nine QSOs were made on new year's evening and seven were made new year's day. Looks like the furthest away QSO made was to Utah.

The potluck was a good time with some pretty good grub. Bill AD7QI's spaghetti was a huge hit. He said he taste-tested on his dog, Critter.



Heathkit Novice "Ham Set" (ca 1951 and 1955)

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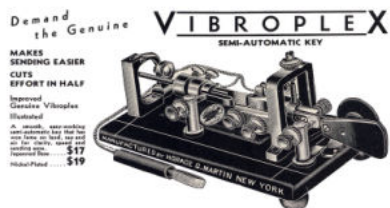
Straight Key Night... cont'd

This foto shows Randy WB4SPB operating the Drake station. Randy was pretty excited about this set up. He was like me... I always wanted one of those receivers when I was a kid. The 2NT transmitter was pretty advanced for its time with a built in antenna relay with break in keying. Back in the early Novice days the maximum power that could be used was 75 Watts, but it was measured as "input" power, not output as today. The panel meter on the 2NT has a tick mark that shows where 75 watts input power is. This transmitter always got a 9 as the last number of the **RST** (Readability Strength Tone) report. It keys very cleanly. The receiver is super selective and sensitive... so it was a very nice to pick your station out of the many stations on the air.

It was 'Doc's' idea to put the old telegrapher's desk to better use. The old typewriter is still in the desk... the table top rotates to stash the old mill underneath. A little furniture polish shinned it up nicely.

To the right is Gary WG7X who finally got to SKN on New Years Day. Gary is operating the Globe Scout Station. The old Cathode Keyed transmitter has 540 volts on the telegraph key contacts. Gary got zapped a couple of times while reaching for the T-R switch and touching the key at the same time.

Gary made a QSO with Bill W9BYH, a member here in Tacoma, and with a ham in June Lake, CA. The rig was operating on 7050 MCs.



Continued next page...

Straight Key Night... cont'd



Here's Doug AD7AV, the club's librarian operating the Drake Ham Set. Doug made contact with a Ham in Burien, K7TUC.



The Museum has a budget for tools and for some periodicals. It sure would be nice to continue on with the "Old Man's Shack" project

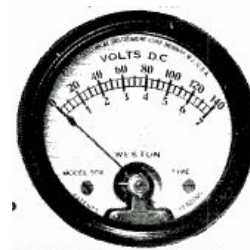
Thanks to the club members and their guests put W7OS on the air again for SKN and to those who brought food to share. Stop by the Museum on Saturdays and see the changes. Make a contact on a "ham set" from yesteryear. So Joe... sorry you couldn't make it... I hope that you will stop by and visit soon. Regards... Rich KR7W -30-



This photo shows the Hammarlund HQ120 Receiver (ca 1939) and the WRL Globe Scout 65 Transmitter (ca 1955). On top of the Globe Scout is (L) a Heathkit SWR AM-2 SWR Meter... and (R) a Heathkit AC-1 long-wire antenna coupler (now-a-days called an antenna tuner).



The old desk contains (l-r) the Drake 2B receiver, 2BQ Q-multiplier, and the 2NT Transmitter. Even though the 2NT looks modern... it is Crystal Controlled (no VFO tuning). Sometimes this is called "Rock Bound".



Listen for W7OS the 1 Meter Band



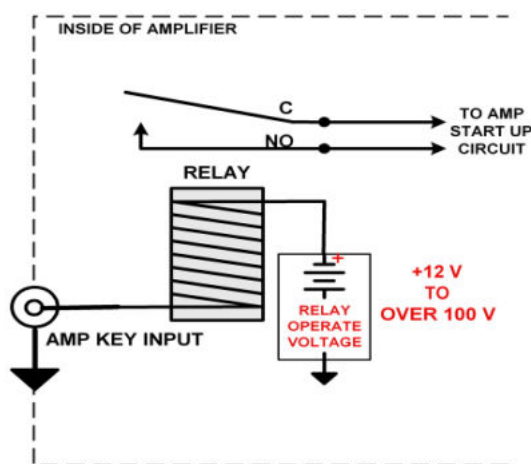
You went garage-sailing with the missus... and even though you were bored, you spotted a piece of ham radio equipment sitting under a table of glasses and dishes. Lifting up the table cloth you see a nearly new Ten-Tec Titan 1200 watt output linear amplifier. The price on the masking tape says \$15.00. Hmmm, you think. I bet I can get it for \$10.

You get the amplifier home and so badly want to connect it up to your Icom 746 Pro transceiver. For some unknown reason you get out the instruction manual for your 746 and it tells you that the radio is capable of switching on a linear amp if the control voltage (from the linear) is 16 Volts DC or lower and less than 500 milliamps of current flow. The book also says if your amplifier exceeds these specs... then a **LARGE EXTERNAL RELAY** must be used. More reading reveals that the Titan Amp's key-up voltage and current is 42 volts at 150 milliamps. Too much voltage, you grumble. I sure don't wanna blow up my new 746 transceiver. What are you gonna do?

Ta-Da! Enter the world wide web. Using your electronic knowledge you've acquired since becoming a ham radio operator in 1985... you found a couple of websites that reveal how to make your own radio to amplifier interloper circuit.

Presented in [this article](#) are some facts and considerations that could assist you in building your own transceiver to linear amplifier keying circuit.

Lets take a trip through the Amp Key Up circuitry... beginning at the Amplifier. There is a relay in the amplifier that operates a couple of circuits... like turning on the plate voltage and operating the Transmit-Receive RF antenna switch. This relay must operate quickly so your transceiver's RF energy is routed to the input of the final amp tubes and the output of the final amplifier tubes are connected to the antenna. The diagram here shows the relay and a voltage source that provides the current needed to operate the amp's relay quickly. We can follow the relay operating voltage source through the



relay coil and see it waiting at the **AMP KEY INPUT** jack to have a **GROUND** applied to it. Once the ground is present... then **WACK!** The relay operates. Different amplifiers use different voltages and current values to make their relay operate.

The next diagram (s) depict what happens in your transceiver to tell the amplifier to key up.

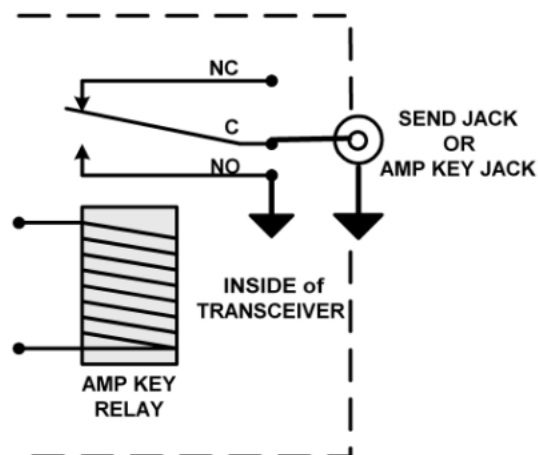


Diagram of Amp Key Relay inside of your Transceiver.

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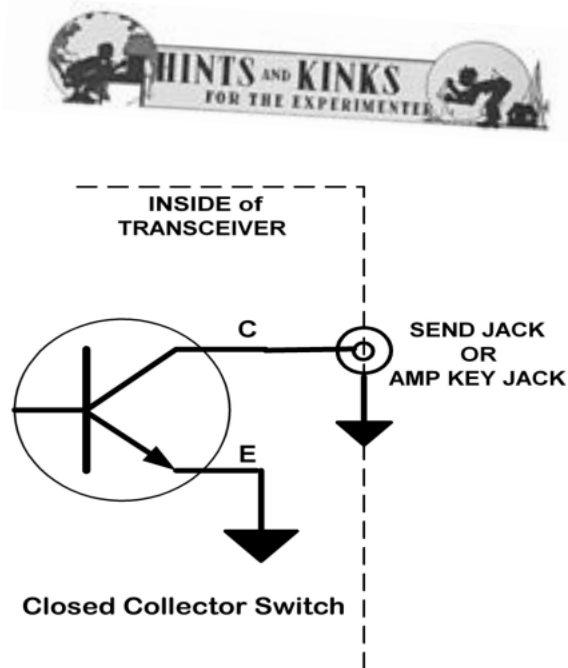


Diagram of Amp Key Closed Collector switch inside of your Transceiver.

We know that your Titan Amp uses 42 volts and needs 150 milliamps of current flow to start it up and switch the antenna relay.

Your transceiver uses a built in relay to operate the relay in the linear amp... OR uses a **closed collector circuit** (which is a transistor switch) to provide a virtual contact closure to the amplifier relay. The closed collector will be faster operating... but handles less current than a relay. The Icom 746 manual says there is a relay inside. However the manual may call a closed collector circuit a relay. They may be describing its function instead of the actual components used. Either way... the voltage and current rating of the transceiver's linear amplifier key up circuit usually is not high enough to operate the circuitry inside of the linear amplifier.

There's many thousands of HF transceivers out there in ham radio land, like Icom or Yaesu or Kenwood or Elecraft feeding into linear amplifiers like Ameritron or Ten-Tec or Drake or old Heathkit Warriors. So, how do they interface with each other and work without blowing something up? Enter the [Interloper](#) or [Radio to Amp interface](#).

transceiver and applies a contact closure to the linear amp could be used to start up the linear amp... However, in some cases this approach could take too much time. The first dit of a 20 word per minute Morse code character might be lost if a slow acting relay were in the circuit. The Morse character A could easily end up being a T at the far end. Your call sign AD7VF could easily be heard as TD7VF. If this happened you would be heard as a DX station at far away locations.

A better fast acting option is to use is an **opto isolator solid state switch**. See diagram below:

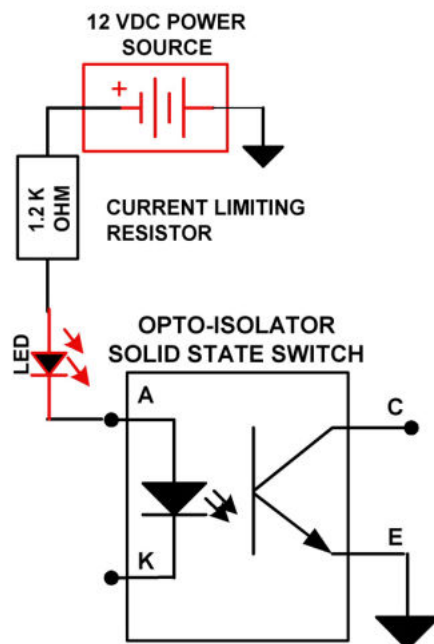


Diagram of the Opto-Isolator Solid State Switch. One half is a Light Emitting Diode. The other

The A and K on the diagram is a light emitting diode. When the correct voltage and polarity is across this LED... it causes the E to C path to conduct. The amount of current that can flow and the voltage present on the E to C path depends on which type of Opto-Isolator SS Switch is chosen. It is important to observe the correct polarity on this device. For instance: On the K to A side... A must be more positive than K. And in the E to C path... C must be more positive than E.

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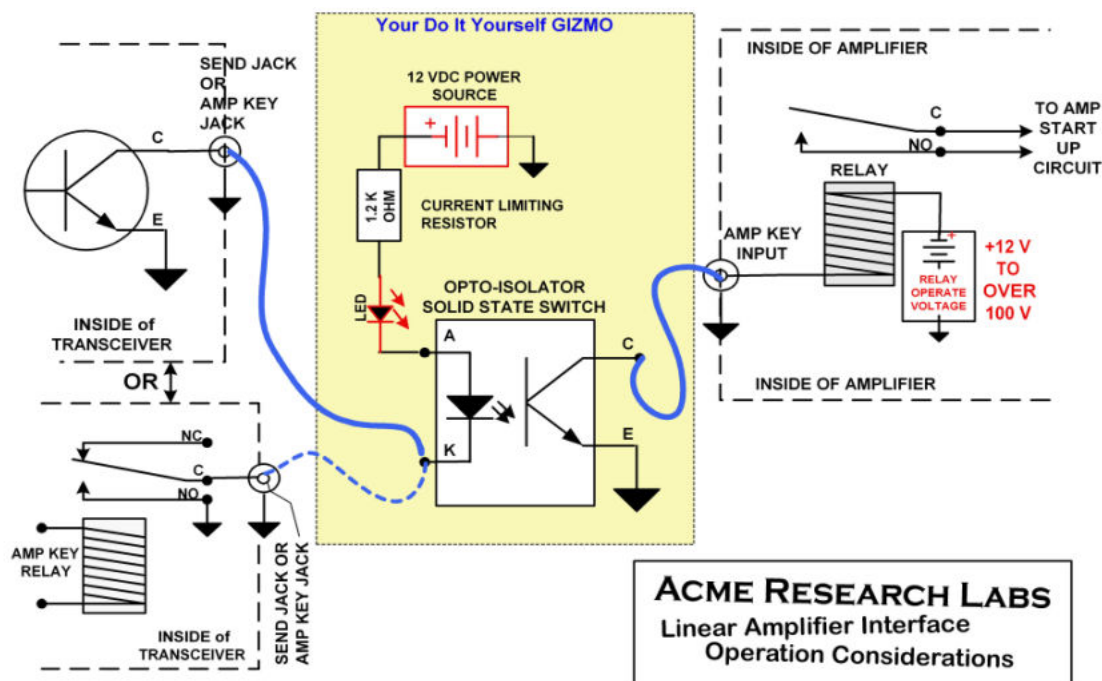


The Light Emitting Diode connected to the SS Switch A lead is electrically in series with the LED inside of the SS Switch. Remember ole Kirchoff? Current will flow through the entire series circuit and that includes the LED connected to the A lead of the SS Switch. This LED will light up when ever the K lead of the SS Switch has a Negative potential applied to it. In this case... a GND is negative enough for current to flow the Solid State Switch to conduct.

GND??? Where does that come from? Remember the Amp Key Relay or Closed Collector Switch inside of your HF transceiver that outputs the SEND or

the 1.2 K ohm current limiting resistor, then to the common everyday ham radio voltage source of 12 V (aka 13.8 V) DC. The 1.2K Ohm **current limiting resistor** lowers the 12 VDC voltage down to .7 V DC to the indicator LED and the SS Switch's internal LED operating voltage.. Then the E to C path of the SS Switch conducts and the AMP KEY INPUT of the linear amp is grounded and POW!... The Linear Amplifier starts up and awaits RF energy from the transceiver to amplify towards the antenna.

A DIY transceiver to linear amp interface is easy to build. I built mine in an old parallel printer switch box. I used RCA jacks for the connections to the Icom 746 rig and toward the Titan Amp. The 12 V DC connection is made with a 3 feet long



AMP KEY output to turn on the linear amp?

BAM!! The above diagram hopefully puts it all together. On the left, either the relay or the ClosedCollector inside of your transceiver outputs a GND with Push to Talk (orMorse Code Key down). This negative potential is applied to the Klead of the Opto-isolator Solid State Switch in the Amplifier Interface DIY Gizmo. Once the GND is on the K lead... then current flows through the K to A of the SS Switch, then through the LED to give

umbilical cord from the interface box to a Anderson Power Pole connector which plugs into my power pole fuse distribution panel.

In next months edition I will show how I constructed my DIY Amp Interface Gizmo. Also a complete parts list will be included. OK Joe... I hope you made it this far. Thanks for reading.
-30- Rich KR7W...

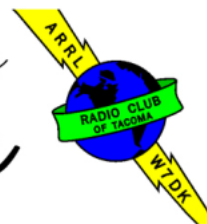
Happy Birthday

January

Day	Full Name Familiar	Call	RCT Number
2	Dan Hale	KC7IEI	1942
4	Dale Harding	KE7WPJ	2381
5	Red Mattison	WA7LON	668
6	Jeff Carter	W7WAL	2098
6	John Clarke	AC7WW	2140
10	Deanna Jenks	KE7ING	1458
10	Wayne Shones	KE7OOM	2340
11	Leonard Burstiner	KA7NWF	2308
11	Paul LeBlanc	K7AXJ	2125
13	Walt Parrish	K0RIH	1214
14	Ray Pedersen	W7KFN	1133
14	Stan Nelson	K7DKK	2311
16	Patrick Six	KE7WPQ	2374
16	Stephen Morton	AD7AB	2127
17	Marvin Wheeler	KG7V	638
18	Gary McAdams	WG7X	1249
20	Don Leonard	N3WN	2116
22	Pete David	KK7QW	1935
22	Rick Rose	KE7EMW	2247
23	Bill Stephens	KD7KPV	2091
23	Damon Isaacson	KE7QWW	2358
23	Jean Wheeler	W7OII	653.2
25	Don Olson	W7DON	1397
25	Ian Haverluk	KE7TEV	2389
27	Perry Lind	KC7ZEE	2310
27	Stuart Reynolds	KE7YVB	2388
28	Bob Hagar	W7SKI	1395
28	Ed Littleton	KE7WPM	2376



The Radio Club of Tacoma's
Logger's Bark



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Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5 Central Tacoma Packet: 144.970

Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County): 147.380 + PL=103.5

Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

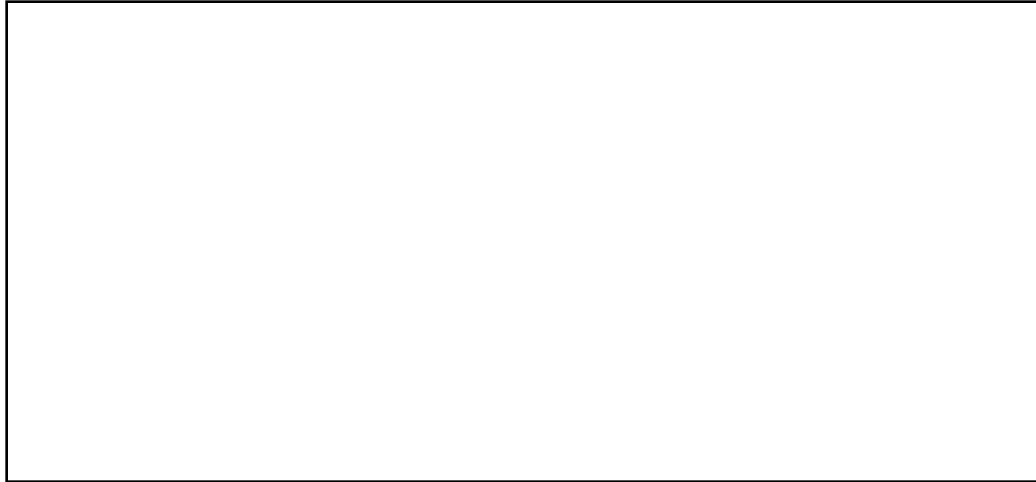
The Loggers Bark

Radio Club of Tacoma, INC.

PO Box 11188

Tacoma, WA 98411

To RCT Member:



JANUARY 2009 EVENTS

CLUB MEETINGS: Wednesdays January 14th and 28th at the Library Administration Building 112th and Waller Road. The club meets at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

Board Meeting: Wednesday January 7th, 7:30 PM at the RCT clubhouse. All members are welcome.

Bark Deadline: Last week-end of each month. Please submit articles by that time!

Support our club: Attend meetings, volunteer, Elmer!

Check into the weekly two meter net: Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on the club repeater on 147.280 MHz.

Check into the weekly 10 meter net: Sundays at 8:00 PM on 28.375 MHz.